UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/92
17 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Fifty-second session
Items 38, 81 and 99 of the
preliminary list*

SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Belarus and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement, signed in Moscow on 7 March 1997, by the President of the Russian Federation, B. N. Yeltsin, and the President of the Republic of Belarus, A. G. Lukashenko, in connection with the formation on 2 April 1996 of the Association between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus (see annex).

We should be grateful if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 38, 81 and 99 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) A. SYCHOU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Belarus
to the United Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

ANNEX

Joint statement by the President of the Russian Federation and the President of Belarus, signed in Moscow on 7 March 1997

The formation on 2 April 1996 of the Association between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus was an historic event which elevated to a new level the process of uniting two fraternal peoples and integrating our States.

From the first days of its formation, the main task of the Association has been to ensure the rights and interests of Russian and Belarusian citizens. They have already been granted equal rights to medical assistance, education, employment, remuneration for labour and other social guarantees.

The establishment of a single customs area, work to ensure identical conditions for the functioning of the economic entities of the Russian Federation and Belarus, and the implementation of joint economic and social programmes have had an increasingly positive impact on solving the problems confronting our peoples.

The Russian Federation and Belarus have established close and trusting cooperation in the area of foreign policy. Our countries are united in their rejection of the plans to expand the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) eastward, which runs the risk of creating new dividing lines and dangerous confrontation on the continent. Having combined their efforts, the two States will continue to strive actively to bring about in Europe a system of comprehensive security that takes into account in a just manner the interests of all the members of the European family of nations.

Nevertheless, the conditions of life require that we proceed more persistently and effectively along the path of further closer relations. Russians and Belarusians quite rightly expect a considerable practical return from the work that has begun. We have no right to disappoint the expectations of our peoples and we are full of determination to take further steps to expand integration.

The Presidents of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus believe that there is a need to strengthen the legal basis for the Association and enhance the effectiveness of all its structures. To this end, plans are being made to strengthen the governing powers of the Supreme Council and the Executive Committee and clearly regulate the questions of the establishment and competence of other joint bodies.

The establishment of an effective mechanism for carrying out decisions taken by Association bodies is a measure that must now be taken. Their timely and complete implementation by all State bodies and legal and natural persons of the Russian Federation and Belarus must become an immutable rule.

At the level of State executive bodies, there is a need to establish a mechanism for cooperation which would ensure direct contacts between their

leaders in dealing with issues that are of mutual interest as well as an ongoing exchange of current information.

The Presidents will assume direct control over the measures to enhance the effectiveness of the activities of the inter-State bodies that have been and are being established.

The unification of the two countries' legislation is considered a top-priority task. The Parliamentary Assembly, which is not sufficiently effective today, is to play an important role in carrying out that task. In order to establish a fully developed legal basis for integration, a procedure must be set up whereby laws adopted by the Assembly within the framework of its competence are incorporated by the Parliaments of the two States members into their legal systems in a manner that would ensure their entry into force as speedily as possible.

In the economic field, we consider it necessary to create equal organizational and economic conditions for the economic entities of the two States and for conducting a coordinated structural policy. To these ends, particular attention is to be given to implementing a jointly prepared programme for synchronizing economic reforms.

A set of measures aimed at ensuring the most favourable conditions for the priority development of trade and the unimpeded movement of goods, services, capital and manpower is to be drawn up and implemented. In order to achieve this, the foundation for a single normative legal basis is to be laid by the end of 1997, chiefly by developing general norms as well as unifying civil and customs codes and simultaneously introducing common taxation legislation.

In the area of production, joint scientific and production programmes are to be actively carried out, transnational companies are to be set up, and a plan for the coordinated development and deployment of productive capacities is to be drawn up.

Combined transport, energy and communication systems are to be formed.

A higher level of economic integration is to be achieved by conducting a common financial, credit and budget policy leading to a monetary union.

Funds allocated from the customs duties of the Russian Federation and Belarus in accordance with standards set by the Supreme Council are also to be used in establishing the Association's budget.

All this will promote the building of a single economic complex for the purpose of solving social problems.

In the social and humanitarian field, the transition to common standards in the Association's social policy is to begin in 1998 after a gradual equalization of remuneration for labour is achieved and the living standard of the population of the two States is enhanced. This, first of all, relates to allowances and entitlements for war and labour veterans, disabled persons and low-income families.

The introduction of the institution of Association citizenship, whereby all citizens of the Russian Federation and all citizens of the Republic of Belarus are also citizens of the Association, could be an effective instrument for ensuring the complete equality of Russians and Belarusians.

Bilateral humanitarian, cultural, scientific and technological and information links are to be stepped up, and the work aimed at opening information and cultural and scientific and technological centres in Moscow and Minsk is to be completed.

The Presidents of the Russian Federation and Belarus are convinced that our peoples, having set out on the path of unity, have made the correct choice for all time to come, and this will undoubtedly help to ensure the economic growth and security of the Association and enhance the well-being of our citizens.

We must act energetically and purposefully on behalf of this sacred cause.

(Signed) B. N. YELTSIN (Signed) A. G. LUKASHENKO

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/93
17 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Fifty-second session
Items 39, 99, 100 and 101 of
the preliminary list*

OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakstan and Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement on issues relating to the Caspian Sea, signed by the Presidents of the Republics of Kazakstan and Turkmenistan in Almaty on 27 February 1997.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 39, 99, 100 and 101 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) A. ATAEVA
Permanent Representative
of Turkmenistan
to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

ANNEX

Joint statement on issues relating to the Caspian Sea, signed by the Presidents of Kazakstan and Turkmenistan in Almaty on 27 February 1997

The President of the Republic of Kazakstan, N. A. Nazarbaev, and the President of Turkmenistan, S. A. Niyazov, having discussed issues relating to the legal status of the Caspian Sea and cooperation between Caspian States in Almaty on 27 February 1997, have reached the following mutual understanding.

1. The parties consider that the elaboration and conclusion of a convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea is an urgent priority task. Until the Caspian States reach an agreement on the status of the Caspian Sea, the parties will adhere to the delimitation of administrative and territorial borders along a line running through the middle of the Sea.

2. As the basic instrument on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, the convention should define the limits of jurisdiction of the Caspian States on the basis of respect for their sovereign rights in the Caspian Sea and should also include principles and norms which will serve as a basis for regulating the protection and rational use of the natural environment, including the exploitation of the Sea's biological resources, the mineral resources of the seabed, navigation, and measures to overcome the adverse consequences of changes in sea level and other issues relating to activities on the Caspian Sea.

3. Agreements on separate aspects of activities on the Caspian Sea will be concluded on the basis of the convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

4. The parties agree that the activities of the coastal States of the Caspian Sea should be performed on the basis of the following principles:

(a) The Caspian States shall comply in their relations with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and sovereign equality of States and the non-use of force or the threat of its use;

(b) The use of the Caspian Sea for exclusively peaceful purposes and its demilitarization;

(c) The maintenance of the Caspian Sea as a zone of peace, good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation and the resolution of all issues relating to the Caspian Sea by peaceful means;

(d) Protection of the natural environment and prevention of the pollution of the Caspian Sea;

(e) The preservation, reproduction and rational exploitation of the biological resources of the Caspian Sea;

(f) The responsibility of the Caspian States for damage to the natural environment and to each other as a result of activities relating to the use of the Caspian Sea and the development of its resources;

(g) The freedom and safety of the merchant shipping of Caspian States; and

(h) Compliance with other principles agreed between coastal States.

5. The parties agree that only vessels of the coastal States may navigate regularly on the Caspian Sea. Shipping rules and conditions and the procedure for ensuring the safety of shipping will be regulated by a separate agreement.

6. The parties will take the necessary coordinated measures to preserve the biological diversity of the Caspian Sea and rationally exploit and reproduce its biological resources and declare their readiness to cooperate to this end.

The parties recognize that within agreed zones each Caspian State has the right to reserve the development of biological resources for its own natural and/or juridical persons.

7. The parties recognize each other's right and the right of each coastal State to carry out work to develop the mineral resources of the Caspian seabed and will exchange specific proposals on the development of mutually advantageous cooperation, including geophysical and geological-prospecting work and the development of hydrocarbon deposits, taking account of the parties' experience and capabilities.

8. The parties are in favour of speeding up negotiations between coastal States and reaching a mutually acceptable understanding on the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

They are convinced that defining the legal status of the Caspian Sea will promote cooperation between them on the basis of equality and mutual advantage and help to attract investment and modern technologies with a view to exploiting the natural resources of the Caspian efficiently, rationally and safely.

For the Republic of Kazakstan

(Signed) Nursultan NAZARBAEV
President of the Republic of Kazakstan

For the Republic of Turkmenistan

(Signed) Sapamurat NIYAZOV
President of Turkmenistan

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/94
S/1997/230
18 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Item 38 of the preliminary list*
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO
PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR
RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 7 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Albania.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 38 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the
United Nations

* A/52/50.

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 7 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Albania

1. On the occasion of his visit to Albania the President of the Council of the European Union, Mr. Hans van Mierlo, expressed great concern at the situation in the country and its possible implications for the region. While recognizing the need to restore law and order and deploring the violence that has occurred, the European Union expects maximum self-restraint from all sides and urges that further violence be avoided. The European Union calls firmly upon the Albanian authorities and all other parties to respect human rights, including minority rights, and fundamental freedoms consistent with Albania's international obligations. A state of public emergency should not be used to subvert those rights or the democratic order and the Union expects it to be lifted as soon as possible. The Albanian authorities are expected to maintain freedom of expression and freedom of information and to stop harassment of the foreign and national media. The opposition also has responsibilities. We support the recommendation of the Council of Europe that the opposition should, out of respect for democratic principles, take its seats and participate in the work of Parliament.

2. The European Union urges the Albanian authorities to ensure the security of foreign citizens in Albania and to cooperate with European Union member States responsible for their well-being.

3. The European Union calls upon Albanian political forces to engage in dialogue, to work together in a responsible manner to solve the present crisis as soon as possible and to establish a government which enjoys broad support. The Union recognizes the need for political and social stability if democratic processes are to be assured. It condemns all attempts by threat or use of arms to undermine stability or seize power and calls on all political forces in Albania also to condemn and seek to prevent such activity. At the same time the Union believes that a parallel process to promote national reconciliation is necessary, leading to a perspective of fresh parliamentary elections and a new constitution.

4. The European Union welcomes the decision of the current Chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to send a personal representative of Albania and urges Albania, as a member of OSCE, to cooperate fully with his mission. It is the Union's conviction that OSCE has an essential role to play to achieve peaceful reconciliation in Albania. The Union stands ready to support OSCE in this endeavour.

In this context, the Union welcomes the steps taken by the Council of Europe and asks OSCE and the Council of Europe to work closely together in order to reinforce democracy in Albania.

5. The European Union welcomes the planned mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank and urges the Government of Albania to reach agreement on ways of ending the present crisis, controlling the investment schemes and restoring economic well-being on the basis of an agreed IMF programme.

6. The European Union, recalling the Council's conclusions of 24 February, confirms its readiness to continue its current assistance to Albania within the PHARE programme, including specific measures aiming at alleviating the present situation in Albania. In addition, the Union is of course ready to provide humanitarian aid should this become necessary. The Union is however concerned that the implementation of the existing trade and cooperation relationship with Albania is suffering and that the PHARE programme is also negatively affected under the present circumstances. Once political and economic conditions are right, the Union is ready to consider the strengthening of relations with Albania within the context of its regional approach and with a view to promoting stability in the region.

7. The European Union has always given strong support to the creation of a democratic Albania. It continues to support that goal. But this requires acceptance by Albania of the principles and practices of democracy.

8. The central and eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/95
18 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fifty-second session
Item 38 of the preliminary list*

SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 11 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union regarding the demonstrations by students and secondary school pupils in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 38 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the
United Nations

* A/52/50.

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 11 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union regarding the demonstrations by students and secondary school pupils in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

1. The European Union expresses deep concern about recent demonstrations by students and secondary school pupils in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, during which (anti)-ethnic slogans were heard in the streets of both Skopje and Tetovo.

2. The European Union is aware of the difficulties the country faces in its transition to a market economy and a pluralistic multi-ethnic society.

3. The extent of European Union support for the transition process in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has recently been confirmed during the G-24 consultative group meeting, held on 25 and 26 February 1997.

4. A stable and prosperous country is not only in the interest of the population of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia but is also essential for the stability of the region as a whole.

5. The European Union supports the appeal of the Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the citizens of the country to continue to work for a strengthening of inter-ethnic trust and respect. The European Union calls upon all political forces in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to work together in a peaceful and democratic way in order to find a solution for problems still existing.

6. The European Union recalls that in accordance with commitments undertaken in the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, respect for ethnic and national minorities is of the utmost importance for national stability and the development of good-neighbourly relations.

7. The European Union reaffirms its support for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in maintaining internal social and political stability during this difficult stage of transition to a civil society and a market economy.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/96
18 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fifty-second session
Item 38 of the preliminary list*

SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

Letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 3 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Swaziland.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 38 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

97-07365 (E) 200397 200397

/...

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 3 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Swaziland

The European Union has taken note of the fact that the four accused leaders of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions were acquitted on 26 February 1997 and hopes that this acquittal will contribute decisively to the peaceful resolution of the current difficulties without further detriment to the economy of Swaziland.

The European Union wishes to assure Swaziland of its continuing support for the constitutional review process with the participation of all sections of Swazi society, in the hope that it can be accelerated and brought to a timely and successful conclusion.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/97
18 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fifty-second session
Item 109 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Letter dated 7 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 3 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Karen refugees.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 109 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 3 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Karen refugees

The European Union expresses its concern about renewed violent conflict on the Myanmar side of the Thai/Myanmar border. The present situation seriously affects the civilian population. It urges the parties involved to exercise maximum restraint and to seek non-violent means to resolve their dispute.

As a result of the conflict large numbers of refugees have again been crossing the border into Thailand. The European Union appreciates the fact that the Royal Thai Government has been providing assistance to refugee populations on its territory for many years, in fulfilment of its humanitarian obligations. With regard to the new influx of refugees from Myanmar the European Union urges the Government of Thailand to apply internationally recognized norms and standards relating to the treatment of refugees. The European Union trusts that Thailand will allow all civilians seeking refuge on its territory to stay thee until the underlying causes of their flight have been removed, and to provide them the necessary protection.